ABSTRACT

An emergency ski brake system located above and to the side and acting in the close vicinity of the pivot point of the runner of a ski vehicle. The preferred embodiment has one or more protruding braking members on each ski that when released by a latching mechanism, rotate forward helically around the outside edge of the runner to substantially engage the terrain more so than does the bottom surface of the runner. The protruding member may take the form of a blade or spike, prong or other single, plural, smooth or toothed members that extend around and under the ski to stab 1-6 inches into the terrain provided that the mechanism and attached protruding member is located alongside and perpendicular to the pivot point of the runner and actuates in a forward, helical rotation in relation to the direction of the runner. There may also be included a safety tether or other operator absence detecting mechanism located on the ski vehicle which actuates the emergency ski brake system in case of accidental operator dismount.